

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): An operations center for a text delivery system wherein text is delivered to subscribers for viewing, comprising:
 - a data receiver for receiving text data;
 - a formatter, connected to the data receiver, for formatting the data received;
 - a processor, connected to the formatter and data receiver, for controlling the processing of the received data;
 - a security means, connected to the formatter, for encrypting the formatted data; ~~and~~
 - an uplink, connected to the security means, for placing the encrypted data onto a video signal; and
 - a combining means, connected to the processor and formatter, for combining text data prior to the data being uplinked.
2. (currently amended): The operations center of claim 1 further comprising:
 - ~~a processor, connected to the formatter and data receiver, for controlling the processing of the received data; and~~
 - an instruction memory, connected to the processor, for supplying instructions to the processor.
3. (original): The operations center of claim 2 further comprising:
 - a message memory, connected to the processor, for holding messages; and
 - a text generator, connected to the processor, for generating text data to be delivered to the subscriber.
4. (original): The operations center of claim 1 wherein the uplink comprises an encoder.

5. (original): The operations center of claim 1 further comprising a billing and collection system for handling subscriber transactions.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended): A method for operating a center for delivering text to subscribers comprising:

receiving text data to be sent to subscribers;

combining the text data;

formatting the text data received;

encrypting the formatted data; and

placing the encrypted data onto a video signal.

8. (original): A system for delivering text upon request wherein the text is delivered as text data, the system comprising:

means for receiving text data;

a local file server, connected to the receiving means, for storing the received text data;

a communication system, connected to the file server, for receiving text data requests and for responding to text data requests;

a home subsystem, connected to the communication system, for requesting text data and receiving text data via the communication system, whereby the text data is received from the local file server after the home subsystem requests the text data.

9. (original): The system of claim 8 further comprising an operation center comprising:

means for gathering text data from publishers;

a master file server, connected to the gathering means, for storing text data from publishers; and

a distribution system, connected to the receiving means, for distributing the text data at the master file to the local file server.

10. (currently amended): An operations center for delivery of electronic books, comprising:

a data receiver, under control of a processor, that receives information comprising an electronic book;

a formatter that formats the received information;

a combiner, connected to the processor and the formatter, that combines text data for delivery;

an encoder that encodes the formatted information;

a memory that stores the encoded information;

a packetizer that packetized the encoded information for delivery; and

a transmitter that transmits the packetized information.

11. (previously presented): The operations center of claim 10, wherein the received information includes text and graphical information.

12. (previously presented): The operations center of claim 10, further comprising a text generator that generates additional text for insertion into the electronic book.

13. (previously presented): The operations center of claim 12, wherein the additional text includes advertisements.

14. (previously presented): The operations center of claim 13, wherein the advertisements are targeted advertisements.

15. (previously presented): The operations center of claim 12, wherein the additional text are messages.

16. (previously presented): The operations center of claim 10, further comprising a data compressor that compresses the received information prior to storage in the memory.

17. (previously presented): The operations center of claim 10, further comprising an error correction circuit that add error correction bits to the information packets.

18. (previously presented): The operations center of claim 10, wherein the operations center is an operations center in a cable television program delivery network.

19. (previously presented): The operations center of claim 10, further comprising a connection to an external database that stores digitized electronic books.

20. (previously presented): The operations center of claim 19, wherein the external database is an on-line database.

21. (previously presented): The operations center of claim 19, wherein the external database is located at one of a book publisher, a magazine publisher, a newspaper publisher, and a television guide publisher.

22. (previously presented): The operations center of claim 10, further comprising a market research module that receives book buy data and provides schedule information for advertising electronic books to subscribers.